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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign Lord, help us to see our work here in Government as our divine calling and mission. Whatever we are called to do today, we want to do our very best for Your glory. Our desire is not just to do different things, but to do the same old things differently: with freedom, joy, and excellence. Give us new delight for matters of drudgery, new patience for people who are difficult, new zest for unfinished details. Be our lifeline in the pressures of deadlines, our rejuvenation in routines, and our endurance whenever we feel enervated. May we spend more time talking to You about issues than we do talking about issues to others. So may our communion with You give us deep convictions and high courage to defend them. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us so we may serve with fresh dedication today. In the Lord's name. Amen.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. BREAUX addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. BREAUX. I understand there are two bills due for their second reading that are at the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1438

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I ask that the clerk read S. 1438 by title.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1438) to establish a commission to review the dispute settlement reports of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1441

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, concerning the second bill, I ask that the clerk read the second bill by title.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). The clerk will read the second bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1441) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for the fiscal years 1996 through 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this matter at this time as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I understand there is a 5-minute limitation. I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak for no more than 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET IMPASSE

Mr. BREAUX. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, as the Congress comes back from the weekend recess, a lot of people I know throughout the country, and in my State of Louisiana in particular, have been wondering whether Congress is going to be able to get together to solve the budget crisis. We do not have a lot of time before December 15, and there is the prospect of yet another shutdown of the Federal Government because Congress has not been able to resolve how to come together on a plan to balance the budget over a specified period of time.

Mr. President, I will make a couple of comments about that impasse because I think indeed it is very serious. I remember looking at the New York Times on Saturday morning. It was a report on the progress that Congress has made on this effort to balance the budget. I will read perhaps a couple of sentences from that article on Saturday by Mr. David Rosenbaum:

The budget negotiations this week between Congress and the White House were a complete bust. For 3 days in a row, lawmakers and administration officials met around a table in a conference room in the Capitol of the United States, closed the doors, accomplished absolutely nothing, and came out and accused each other of refusing to negotiate in good faith. Then, on Thursday afternoon, they adjourned until next week. No one savvy about Washington politics was surprised.

Mr. President, at a time when President Clinton can bring all the heads of the territories in Bosnia to Dayton, OH, and ask them to sit in a room until they reach an agreement ending a war that has been going on for centuries, can we not bring together the parties in this body called Congress to agree on what we should do with the budget?

I mentioned another article, which I think is right on target. It is by our distinguished leader, Senator TOM DASCHLE, the Democratic leader. He

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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